

Message Text

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47

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 CU-02 DHA-02 OMB-01 /085 W

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P R 301555Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5041

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

USMISSION USUN NY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PRETORIA 3369

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SF, PINS

SUBJ: SOWETO AFTERMATH

REF: PRETORIA 3344

1. EVENTS REPORTED REFTEL APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN A CONTINUATION OF AFTERMATH OF SOWETO AND NOT A MAJOR NEW OUTBREAK. THIS MORNING'S PRESS REPORTS THAT FOUR SOWETO SCHOOLS WERE DAMAGED BY FIRES YESTERDAY AND THAT SOME LOOTING AND STONING TOOK PLACE WHEN TWO BREAD VANS AND COLD DRINK TRUCKS WERE STOPPED AND PLUNDERED. CROWDS OF STUDENTS REPORTED YESTERDAY AS DEMONSTRATIONS MAY WELL HAVE BEEN MASS EXODUS OF FRIGHTENED STUDENTS FROM CLASSROOMS IN SCHOOLS WHERE FIRES STARTED. IN ANY CASE, CONGEN JOHANNESBURG HEARD TODAY THAT CLASSES RESUMED WITH ALMOST NORMAL ATTENDANCE. THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DAY HAS APPARENTLY PASSED IN QUIET WITHOUT DEMONSTRA-

TIONS OR ARSON ATTEMPTS, ALTHOUGH PRESS REPORTS SAY THAT ONE SCHOOL IN ALEXANDRA TOWNSHIP AND TWO IN MAMELODI WERE SET ALIGHT LAST NIGHT. SCHOOL ATTENDANCE IN ATTERIDGEVILLE AND MAMELODI CONTINUED NEAR NORMAL.

2. AUTHORITIES HAVE BLAMED THESE INCIDENTS ENTIRELY ON YOUTH GANGS WHO THEY SAY ARE THREATENING STUDENTS AGAINST RETURNING TO CLASSES AND ARE CARRYING OUT ARSON INCIDENTS. R500 REWARD HAS BEEN OFFERED BY SOWETO POLICE FOR ONE GANG THEY SAY IS RESPONSIBLE FOR SOWETO INTIMIDATION AND FIRES.

3. COMMENT: CONTACTS IN BLACK COMMUNITY DENY ORGANIZED THUGS ARE SOLELY RESPONSIBLE FOR VIOLENCE ALTHOUGH ADMITTING THEY ARE DEFINITELY AN ELEMENT IN IT. PARTICULARLY OUTSIDE OF SOWETO, THEY CLAIM VIOLENCE IS SHOW OF SOLIDARITY WITH SOWETO RESIDENTS AND THEY ANTICIPATE THAT RIPPLE EFFECT WILL CONTINUE. BLACK FACULTY AT UNIVERSITY OF NORTH IN TURFLOOP ARE VERY APPREHENSIVE ABOUT AUGUST 11 SCHOOL OPENING THERE. THEY TOLD VISITING EMBOFF THAT ACTIONS OF WHITE FACULTY MEMBERS AT TIME EARLIER DISTURBANCES LED TO CLOSURE HAD SERIOUSLY ALIENATED STUDENT BODY, LEADING TO LIKELIHOOD OF INCIDENTS WHEN CLASSES RESUME. BOWDLER

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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